

REMARKS

The allowance of Claim 12 is gratefully acknowledged. This Amendment adds a small number of claims to the application that all depend, directly or indirectly, from allowed Claim 12. Such dependent claims generally follow the language of dependent Claims 2 through 11 in the application as originally filed.

In accordance with Section 714.16 of the MPEP, the following statements are made in connection with this proposed amendment after allowance:

(A) why the amendment is needed - the amendments are needed in order to fully protect the claimed invention. Although independent Claim 12 has been allowed, the dependent claims that are proposed to be added relate to additional and important features of the invention that are not set forth in independent Claim 12, but are believed to be necessary to completely cover the invention;

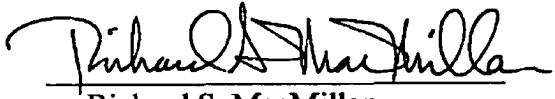
(B) why the proposed amended or new claims require no additional search or examination - the proposed new claims require no additional search or examination because they all depend, directly or indirectly from allowed Claim 12. Thus, the addition of such claims does not expand the scope of coverage that has already been allowed;

(C) why the claims are patentable - the proposed new claims are clearly patentable because, again, they all depend, directly or indirectly from allowed Claim 12. Thus, the addition of such claims does not expand the scope of coverage that has already been allowed; and

(D) why they were not presented earlier - the proposed new claims were, in essence, presented in the application as originally filed. The claims were cancelled from the application for the sake of convenience while the undersigned attorney and the Examiner prosecuted the application (and, in doing so, amended the language of the independent claim on several occasions). Rather than potentially having to amend some or all of the dependent claims in accordance with each of the amendments to the independent claim, it was believed to be more efficient to add such dependent claims back into the application after a final agreement on the language of the independent claim was reached, as it now has been.

The amendments proposed herein are (A) needed for proper disclosure or protection of the invention, and (B) require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office. Thus, it is appropriate for such amendments to be entered, and such entry is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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